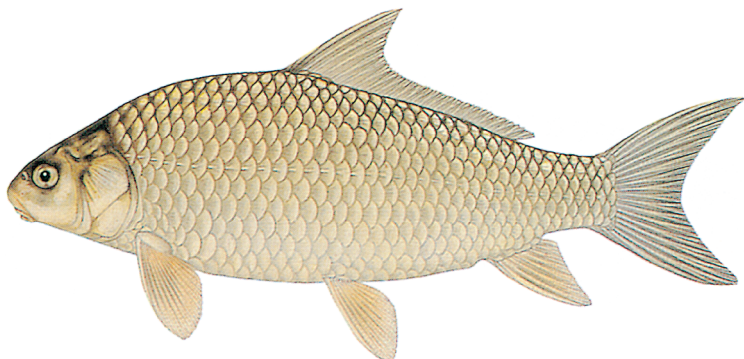


River carpsucker

Carpiodes carpio



Similar Species: Quillback

Identification: Mouth positioned on underside of head, when mouth is closed lower jaw has prominent nipple-like projection, upper jaw extends **behind** front of eye. (Quillback **lacks** nipple at middle of lower lip, has longer snout, and its upper jaw does not extend behind front of eye.)

The river carpsucker is found in rivers and reservoirs of the Great Plains from northern Mexico to Montana and Minnesota. In South Dakota, river carpsuckers are found throughout the Missouri River drainage, living in large schools primarily in quiet, silt-bottomed pools and slow, sandy runs of rivers. This species feeds on tiny aquatic worms, small crustaceans, and algae from lake and stream bottoms. River carpsuckers commonly reach 2 to 5 pounds and generally do not exceed 10 pounds.

